AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A fence plinth adapted for contact with a ground surface in a fence construction, wherein the plinth is formed from sheet material having spaced apart end edge margins and ~~being~~ is profiled to incorporate stiffening formations that extend along the sheet between the end edge margins.

2. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The fence plinth as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sheet is sheet metal.

3. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The fence plinth as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sheet is pre-painted galvanized sheet steel.

4. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The fence plinth as claimed in claim 1, wherein the stiffening formations are corrugations or ribs such that a cross-sectional profile of the plinth displays a regular wave form with crests and troughs displaced from a notional centre plane of the sheet.

5. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The fence plinth as claimed in claim 1, wherein the stiffening formations are in the form of one or more ribs and adjacent pans that extend across the sheet.

6. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The fence plinth as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least some of the stiffening formations are disposed inboard of opposite side edges of the plinth.

7. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The fence plinth as claimed in claim 1, wherein the depth of the stiffening formations from a centre plane of the sheet is greater than 20mm.

8. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The fence plinth as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plinth is profiled to form a structural section ~~such as a z-section~~ to provide the stiffening formations.

9. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The fence plinth as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sheet material has opposite side edge ~~margin~~ margins that interconnect the end edge margins, the side edge margins being configured to allow lapping of one side margin with the other side margin of another said plinth to form a plinth assembly with the overlapping region forming a region of increased stiffness in the plinth assembly.

10. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The fence plinth as claimed in claim 9, wherein the one side margin nests within the other side margin at the overlapping region.

11. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The fence plinth as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sheet is profiled to allow stacking of the plinth with another plinth where the plinths overlap with one plinth nesting within the other plinth.

12. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The fence plinth as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sheet material is profiled so that the major surfaces of the plinth allow free drainage of

water across those surfaces when the plinth is disposed in ~~its~~ an in-use orientation of the plinth.

13. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The fence plinth as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ratio of the height of the plinth, measured between the opposite side edges of the plinth, to the length of the plinth, measured between the end edges of the plinth, is in the range of 0.03 to 0.10.

14. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The fence plinth as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sheet is bent to form the stiffening formations and wherein the radius of the curvature of the bends is at least 5mm.

15. (Currently Amended) A fence comprising spaced apart fence posts, each including a channel with the channel of one post facing the channel of the other post, a barrier panel extending between the posts and a plinth according to claim 1 located below the barrier panel to be in contact with the ground surface and extending between the posts with ~~the~~ end edge margins of the plinth located within respective ones of the fence post channels, the end edge margins of the plinth being interconnected by opposite side margins of the plinth.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The fence as claimed in claim ~~16~~ 15, wherein the end edge margins are securely located within the channels by the fit between the end edge margins and the channels of the respective posts.

18. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The fence as claimed in claim 15, wherein the barrier panel is provided by a plinth assembly ~~further~~ comprising a plurality of like said plinths located one above the other and having their said end edge margins located in respective ones of the fence post channels, each of the plinths being arranged in partial overlapping relationship to form a plinth assembly with the, or each, said overlapping region forming a region of ~~increase~~ increased stiffness in the plinth assembly that extends between the fence posts.

19. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The fence as claimed in claim 18, wherein one said side margin of ~~a~~ said plinth nests within the other side margin of an adjacent plinth at the, or each, said overlapping region.

20. (Currently Amended) A fence comprising two spaced apart posts that include respective channels that face toward one another, a barrier panel extending between the posts, and a plinth located below the barrier panel to be in contact with a ground surface and extending between the posts, the plinth being formed from sheet material having opposite side edges, and end edges that interconnect the side edges, the plinth being profiled to extend laterally out of a notional centre plane extending between the side edges so that in use the end edge margins of the plinth locate snugly within the channels.

21. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The fence as claimed in claim 20, wherein the sheet material is profiled so that the plinth forms a partially closed section having opposite side walls interconnected by a bridging portion.

22. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The fence as claimed in claim 20, wherein the sheet is sheet metal.

23. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The fence as claimed in claim 20, wherein the sheet is pre-painted galvanized sheet steel.

24. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The fence as claimed in claim 20, wherein the ratio of the height of the plinth, measured between the opposite side edges of the plinth, to the length of the plinth, measured between the end edges of the plinth, is in the range of 0.03 to 0.10.

25. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The fence as claimed in claim 15, wherein the barrier panel comprises upper and lower rigid rails, and an infill ~~means~~ panel extending from rail to rail.

26. (Withdrawn) A method of forming fence plinths comprising the steps of:

profiling a steel strip to incorporate longitudinal extending stiffening formations in the strip; and

shearing the strip at discrete lengths to form the plinths.

27. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the strip is profiled using a roll-forming process.

28. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the strip is bent to form the stiffening formations and wherein the radius of curvature of the bends are greater than 5mm.